



Wimbledon College

Head Master's Spring Half-Term Letter to Parents

Friday 13th February 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will already be aware this is my first letter to parents that is only being sent electronically to all parents. It will be, as always, available on the College's website. I would like to thank you all for providing the school with up to date email addresses, as we are now in a position to use emails as our regular means of communication with parents. If you are aware of any parents who have not received this letter would you ask them to contact school so that we can resolve the matter.

As always I hope that you will find the content of the letter useful. Your son[s] will have received their report cards in the normal way and I hope that they have given them to you.

Report Card and Lower Line set changes

With this letter you should receive your son's report card, with the exception of Rhetoric pupils. As you know the grades are colour coded so that you can see an overall impression of your son's achievement and progress in each subject. By this point in the year you should be seeing a shift from red to green as you look across the report. If you, or your son, feel his target grades are too low or too high please speak to your son's Head of Line. We are in the process of making set changes in Lower Line. Boys affected will be informed of the changes on their return to school after the half term break.

We have also included an additional **Conduct Report** for the first time. This gives you a summary of your son's attendance, achievement and behaviour referral record so far this academic year. The Conduct Report is self-explanatory and I hope that it will not contain any surprises for you. If you have any concerns as a result of this summary please do not hesitate to speak to your son's Head of Line. It is our intention that this report will be issued alongside all future report cards.

School Musical - 'Lark Rise'

This year's musical, 'Lark Rise', will be performed from Wednesday March 18th to Friday 20th at 7.30 in the College Hall and will include boys from Figures through to Rhetoric as well as girls from the Ursuline High School. This Olivier Award winning National Theatre show by Keith Dewhurst takes its inspiration from Flora Thompson's 1947 best-seller "Lark Rise to Candleford", a delightful biography of an Oxfordshire village before the Great War (recently televised). The first part is set in the village, the second part (by Jonathan Lomas and Simon Potter from a 1996 revival) in the trenches in WWI; both feature charming folk melodies by Steeleye Span and The Albion Band.

Prices are £7 for adults, £5 for under 18s. Tickets will be available from the College Secretary, Mrs Annette Lawlor. All seats will be numbered and reserved. Please make cheques payable to

Wimbledon College. A ticket booking form is enclosed with this letter. Please ensure that you purchase tickets early as they do sell quickly.

Supporting GCSE, AS and A Level students

Information on strategies being used to supporting Syntax pupils in the build up to their summer examinations are available on the Syntax page of the school's website. It can be accessed via a link on the left hand side of the home page. I would encourage parents to take time to keep checking this page and to discuss with your son what they can take advantage of as part of their exam preparation. Boys should also be developing their revision timetables to make the best use of their time in the build up to their examinations.

It is important to note that their first public examination is on **Tuesday 5th May 2015**. I would also like to remind you that boys in Syntax will be expected to attend school as normal during the exam period. We will inform you of the exact arrangements at a later stage.

Rhetoric and Poetry pupils should have received their summer exam timetable from their tutors. If not would you please remind your son to pick it up after half term.

After half term as part of their preparation for their public exams Poetry pupils have PPEs in the week beginning 2nd March and Rhetoric have their PPEs in the week beginning 9th March. Further details will be posted on the College website.

Parent Evenings

Thank you to all parents who attended their son's parent evening this half term. It was very pleasing to see so many of you and to have the opportunity to speak to a number of you.

Figures Parent Evening takes place on Wednesday 4th March and letters will be sent to parents with details about the evening after half term.

Appeal from Team Margot

We received a request to publicise an appeal, which we think is extremely worthwhile and which will take up very little of your time. Margot is the niece of one of our old boys.

In October 2013, a friend's 16 month old daughter was diagnosed with two rare types of blood cancer. On 21 February 2014 Margot received a bone marrow transplant from an anonymous donor who had registered as a blood stem cell donor. This donor's kind benevolent act gave Margot a chance of beating the cancer and giving her precious time with her family and friends that they will be forever grateful for.

At the time Margot was diagnosed there were only around 900,000 people in the UK registered and only 23,000,000 worldwide. Through the enormous efforts of Team Margot 50,000 people requested registration kits from Delete Blood Cancer UK in 6 weeks, but there is still a need for more potential donors. Margot's family and friends, otherwise known as Team Margot are continuing their efforts to increase the number of people on the stem cell register.

It's easy to register online and if you are aged between 17 and 50 and in good health, it takes about 15 minutes to pre-register. A swab kit will arrive for you to swab the inside of the cheek and then you return the kit to Delete Blood Cancer UK and that's it.

*A registration day has been organised in Wimbledon on **Sunday 8 March at Donhead School from 1 - 4.30pm** Please put the date in your diary and come along and register.*

If you are unable to register or have already done so, we will also be raising money for Delete Blood Cancer UK, to help pay for the kits, with the sale of Margot Bows, Pins and Bands. Cakes and coffee will also be on sale.

Please let as many people as possible know about this date and let's get as many people as possible on the register. Alternatively if you are unable to make that date, you can register on line <http://www.deletebloodcancer.org.uk/en/register-now>. (please select Team Margot in the dropdown box)

Thank you for your time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-Y71G4JIR0>

Refectory

Once again may I remind parents that boys in Lower Line are not allowed to pay for food with cash. Please ensure that your son's PayPal account is topped up. You may also need to consider increasing the daily limit set on his account given the price increases. As well as for safety reasons, as the boys do not have to have cash on them travelling to and from school, when boys use cask or a combination of cash and 'thumb' it slows the process down. With more boys buying food from the Refectory it is important that we move them through the tills as quickly as possible

Uniform

Thank you for your ongoing support by ensuring that your son[s] are wearing their uniform correctly. I would just like to remind parents that if you are buying new school shoes for your son then please make sure that they fall within College uniform expectations. My previous letter outlining which shoes are acceptable is still available on the College website.

I would also like to remind parents that all boys, including Sixth form, are expected to be clean shaven and that there should be no extreme hair styles. [More detail can be found in the boy's Diaries]

Friends of Wimbledon College

I include the following update from the FOWC Chair, Mr Darren Agnew:

We held our first meeting for 2015 on Monday evening, 9th February, and as a result I can bring you information about our events for the year ahead. Firstly however, some news about a few of our recent events.

Thanks to all of you who braved the weather for the fireworks back in November. It was a big success despite the rain and our display for 2015 is already booked! In December we held our Christmas Tea and book sale in conjunction with the Christmas Tree collection and it was so well attended that this year we hope to extend the number of stalls to create a Wimbledon College Christmas Market. We recently held our termly uniform collection and many thanks to all of you who made donations.

So, now for 2015. All of the events detailed below, are to be held at the College.

The Friends Quiz Night - Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm

Hog Roast Hoedown (dinner with country and line dancing...don't worry we will be taught on the night!) - Saturday 20th June at 7.30pm

The Friends' Uniform Sale. Hundreds of quality used items of college uniform and sports kit at bargain prices! - Saturday 13th June from 12 - 2pm

Vino & Fromage, The Friends wine & cheese night hosted by Richard Household - Friday 25th September at 7.30pm (with Wine Quiz from 8pm)

2015 Wimbledon College and Ursuline High School Fireworks - Saturday 7th November. Gates open at 5.30 with the display scheduled for 7pm.

Wimbledon College Christmas Market - proposed date is 5th December (TBC) from 12 - 4pm

Further details of all of these events will be posted on our Friends of Wimbledon College webpage on the College website in the next week, so please visit our page to keep up to date.

Having sons who attend Wimbledon College means we are all already members of the Friends of Wimbledon College and we very much appreciate each other's generosity and support. If you can make it to any of our regularly scheduled meetings this year or if you are able to assist at any of our events that would be a real boost to our community! Please get in touch at friendsofwimbledoncollege@gmail.com with your contact details.

Finally, here are the dates for this term for which the Friends will be providing hospitality -

College Easter Play Nights - Wed 18th, Thu 19th and Fri 20th March. We will need 3 helpers for each evening from 6.30pm. If you are able to offer your time on any of these evenings, *please email us at friendsofwimbledoncollege@gmail.com.*

We look forward to seeing you and have a brilliant 2015!

Darren Agnew

Football

Given much better conditions this year compared to last we have been able to play a lot more of our football fixtures this term, with many pleasing results. Just as important is the boys' enthusiasm to represent the school at football and this is reflected in the fact that we had six teams in some year groups competing against Kings last weekend. It has also been pleasing to see the interest in this week's House football competition. We still have three teams competing in Surrey Cup Competitions. They are:

Year 7 who are in the last 16 where they will play St Richard Reynolds, away, [date to be arranged]

Year 9 who are in the last 16 where they will play Coombe Boys, away, on the 26th of February

Year 10 who will face Woodcote School away in the Quarter Final on the 9th of March

We wish them all good luck in their next games.

Athletics

Our Year 7 team were successful in the Merton round of the South London Secondary Schools Indoor Athletics Competition. They now go forward to represent Merton against other South London Year 7 Indoor Athletics. Our team competed against five other schools and we won. We now represent Merton against other South London Boroughs at the end of February.

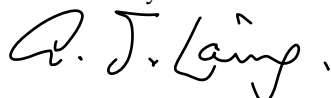
Basketball

Once again basketball has been very popular and there have been encouraging signs of progress and success across all teams. Attendance for figures training has been fantastic and the A team recently won the Merton Cup Tournament. The Rudiments team competed well in a tough league and currently sit in 2nd place. The team from Lower Grammar made it as far as the Quarter Finals in the Surrey Cup and finished 3rd in the Merton Cup Tournament. The Grammar team improved throughout the season and showed real desire to win some close matches this term. The 1st team were very competitive in the National Cup and still have a chance to top the Surrey League. They will be competing in the Surrey Cup Semi Finals after half term.

Finally may I remind parents that Monday 23rd February is a staff inset day and so boys return to school on Tuesday 24th February.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Laing
Head Master

